

Approved

TOWN OF WESTFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ALL BOARDS MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: April 30, 2002

TIME: 7:20 P.M.

PLACE: J.V. Fletcher Library

PRESENT: Robert Jefferies, Dini Healy-Coffin, Elaine McKenna,
Chris Romeo, Robert McCusker-*arrived 7:25*

OTHERS

PRESENT: Steve Ledoux-Town Manager, Jeff Chelgren-Assistant
Town Manager, Suzanne Marchand-Finance Director,
Ellen Harde-Town Moderator, Robert Welch-Police Chief,
Representatives of the Planning Board, Conservation
Commission, School Committee, Permanent School
Building Committee, Board of Health, Library Trustees,
Community Preservation Committee, Cable Advisory
Committee, Senior Tax Relief Committee, Historical
Commission, Recreation Commission, Master Plan
Implementation Committee, Finance Committee, Stony
Brook Center Master Plan Committee, League of Women
Voters

Continuation of Selectmen Positions for Annual Town Meeting

Article 3: Compensation Plan Amendment/Town Manager

It was moved by McKenna, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1
ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 3.

Article 7: Animal Control Officer Revolving Fund/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to correct the language in Article 7 to be the same as the motion.

Article 8: Teacher's Early Retirement/Town Manager

Ledoux reported that this Article will be recommended for dismissal.

Article 9: Revolving Funds/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 9.

Article 10: Conservation Commission Expendable Trust/Conservation Com.

Ledoux reported that CPA funds cannot be used to fund this Article. Ledoux recommended deferring Article 10 to Fall Town Meeting. It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to defer Article 10 to the Fall Town Meeting.

Article 11: Highway Department Chapter 90 Funds/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 11.

Article 13: Health Insurance Increase for Town Employees/Selectmen

It was moved by Romeo, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to support Article 13.

Article 14: Health Insurance Increase for Retired Town Employees/Selectmen

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 3 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSTAINING (McKenna) and 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to support Article 14.

Article 15: Payment of Back Taxes/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 15.

Article 16: Superfund Site Settlement – Beede Waste Oil Site/Town Manger

It was moved by Romeo, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 16.

Article 17: Capital Requests/Various Departments

Deferred to Saturday, May 11, 2002.

Article 18: School Building & Facility Repairs/School Department

Deferred to Saturday, May 11, 2002.

Article 19: Water Treatment Plants – Furniture & Equipment/Water Dept.

It was moved by McKenna, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 19.

Article 20: Construction of Two New Elementary Schools – Supplemental Appropriation/Permanent School Building Committee

Ken Morgan, Chairman of the Permanent School Building Committee, stated that the appropriation is needed for additional ledge on site and the furniture, fixtures and equipment for both schools. It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 20.

Article 22: Brookside Mill/Town Manager

It was moved by McKenna, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 22.

Article 23: Rescind May 5, 2001 Annual Town Meeting Article/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSENT (McCusker), to approve Article 23.

Town Moderator's Discussion of Town Meeting Process and Presentation Format

Ellen Harde, Town Moderator, referenced her letter to all departments, boards and committees. Harde pointed out that Town Meeting is a meeting of the voters. Accordingly, Harde asked that presentations at Town Meeting be made by the boards and committees and that overhead presentations be kept to a minimum.

All Boards Meeting Presentation of Town Meeting Articles

Ledoux read the list of warrant articles for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting to be held on May 11, 2002. David Keele, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee will be asking to take Articles 24 and 25 out of order after Article 3. Keele noted that if Article 24 and Article 25 fail, the budget will need to be amended. Harde asked that she be provided with a list of those items that will be impacted if those two articles fail. Keele stated that the Finance Committee will be moving to amend Article 25 to remove the language for the November ballot. The Finance Committee felt that it was critical to resolve the budget issues now.

Ledoux reported that House Bill 4951 relative to Article 12 Early Retirement is still in the Senate and may not be ready for May 11th and may have to be withdrawn. Welch report that the Senate approved the bill with 3 amendments. Jefferies suggested that Town Meeting provide input even if the bill is not ready. Harde stated that it could be amended to get a sense from Town Meeting.

Ledoux reported that Article 17 Capital Requests, Article 18 School Building and Facilities Repairs, and local aid cuts will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2002. Ledoux stated that Article 17 may be deferred to Fall Town Meeting. McCusker asked that the School Department provide the voters with information regarding cost savings associated with the new windows, i.e., energy savings, etc.

Harde asked if Articles 27 and 28 (Tax Relief for Long Time Residents) would be discussed as one item or two separation discussions. Paul Murray, Senior Tax Relief Committee, stated that the intent of the article will take place in Article 27. Murray stated that the Committee will be working on a strategy for Town Meeting at their meeting on May 1st.

Ledoux noted that Article 31 Town General Bylaw Amendment deals with regulations not bylaws. Harde reported that the Police Safety Officer has requested that this Article remain on the warrant in order to get direction from Town Meeting to the Selectmen.

Harde announced that the Special Town Meeting will begin on May 11th at 2:00 p.m. A quorum is required. Harde suggested that at the start of Town Meeting, she will read the list of warrant articles, and the articles that are not questioned can be placed on the consent agenda and be voted on before lunch break.

Selectmen to Continue Taking Positions on Articles

Article 24: Acceptance of Enterprise Legislation-Ambulance/Town Manager

McCusker asked Ledoux to provide information regarding the balance of the existing ambulance fund.

Article 26: Fire Truck Lease Option/Fire Department

McCusker asked that the Board be provided with the cost to rebuild the truck. Jefferies stated that the truck can be rebuilt but without a warranty or guarantee. McCusker stated that there is information on the Internet relative to rebuilding fire trucks.

Article 29: Scenic Road Bylaw Amendment/Planning Board & Historic Comm.

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 29.

Article 35: Sidewalk Indemnification Authorization/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve Article 35.

Article 37: Acquisition of Stepinski Land/Water Commission

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support the \$400,000 for this acquisition.

Article 38: Acquisition of Groton Road Land/Conservation Commission

Romeo asked Chelgren to provide him the name of the property owner as he could possibility be in a conflict of interest. Deferred to Saturday, May 11th.

Article 43: Discontinuance of a Portion of Old Concord Road/Selectmen

Ledoux reported that this portion is not related to the Berry property located at 138 Concord Road. This portion relates to the Villages at Westford. Chelgren reported that the Planning Board has recommended support of Article 43.

Chelgren stated that the discontinuance would not impact the residents on May Road. It was moved by McKenna, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve Article 43.

Article 44: Street Acceptance/Planning Board
To be withdrawn.

Article 51: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Growth Management Bylaw
Board of Selectmen

Romeo stated that exempting the accessory dwelling units would help residents on fixed incomes and handicap residents by allowing them to stay in their properties. Romeo stated that residents would not have to compete with developers for building permits. Bob Shaffer, Planning Board and Growth Management Bylaw Committee, concurred with Romeo's statements. It was moved by McCusker, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to recommend Article 51.

The Board to take positions on Articles 4, 5, 6, 10, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26 and 38 on Saturday, May 11, 2002.

Approval of Revised Police Department Rules and Regulations

Robert Welch, Police Chief, was present. It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 ABSTAINING (McCusker), to approve the Rules and Regulations as submitted by the Police Chief on Tuesday, April 23, 2002.

Deadline to Register to Vote for Special Town Meeting

Chelgren clarified that the deadline to register to vote for the Special Town Meeting is Friday, May 3rd. The postcard sent to residents was incorrect.

The Board thanked McKenna for her hard work and dedication as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Adjournment

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by McKenna, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Steve Ledoux, Town Manager

Robert Jefferies, Chairman